

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8065

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USINT ALGIERS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, AU, AG, UR, XT

SUBJ: NATURAL GAS - AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN LNG CONSORTIUM

REF ALGIERS 596 (NOTAL)

1. BASIC AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN AUSTRIAN FIRM AUSTRIA FERNGAS (REPRESENTING SEVERAL PROVINCIAL GAS DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS) AND SOCIETE ANONYME DE GAS ALGERIAN POUR L' EUROPE (SAGAPE) BY WHICH FERNGAS WILL JOIN SAGAPE CONSORTIUM IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLY CONTRACT BETWEEN CONSORTIUM AND ALGERIAN SONATRACH. SAGAPE PRESENTLY REPRESENTS GAZ DE FRANCE, THE BELGIAN DISTRIGAZ AND THE GERMAN SAARGAS, GASVERSORGUNG SUEDE AND BAYERNGAS. SUISSE GAZ IS EXPECTED TO JOIN GROUP IN NEAR FUTJRE.

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2. ACCORDING TO FERNGAS SOURCE, SAGAPE' S PLANS PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL IMPORTS OF 15.5 BILLION CU. METERS ALGERIAN NATURAL GAS. OF THIS QUANTITY, ABOUT 2 BILLION DESTINED FOR AUSTRIA, ONE BILLION FOR SWITZERLAND. ALGERIAN LNG WILL BE SHIPPED TO MONFALCONE NEAR TRIESTE AND DISTRIBUTED IN EUROPE VIA PROJECTED MONFALCONE-KIEFERSFELDEN PIPELINE.

3. RECENT RUHRGAS PRESS RELEASE INDICATES THAT AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINE FROM ITALY TO SOUTH GERMANY WAS REACHED IN PARIS ON FEB 19 BETWEEN RUHRGAS, THE ITALIAN SNAM, GAZ DE FRANCE AND AUSTRIAN OIL ADMINISTRATION (OEMV). OEMV OFFICIALS CONFIRM PRESS RELEASE AND ADD THAT SUBJECT AGREEMENT IS QTE DECLARATION OF INTENT UNQTE IN WHICH COMPANIES CONCERNED AGREE TO CONCLUDE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINE FROM MONFALCONE TO KIEFERSFELDEN IN SOUTHERN GERMANY IN NEAR FUTURE. PIPELINE WILL TRANSIT AUSTRIA AND ENTER GERMANY NEAR KUFSTEIN. PRELIMINARY FORECASTS INDICATE PROJECTED PIPELINE MAY START OPERATIONS IN 1977/78 AT THE EARLIEST.

4. BESIDES SUPPLYING EUROPE WITH ALGERIAN GAS, PROJECTED PIPELINE WOULD, ACCORDING TO OEMV CONTACT, ENABLE FRANCE TO IMPORT SOVIET NATURAL GAS DIRECTLY FROM USSR ONCE ANOTHER PIPELINE IS BUILT CONNECTING TRANS- AUSTRIA PIPELINE (NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION) WITH MONFALCONE- KIEFERSFELDEN LINE. HUMES

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